

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OECD PARIS 13004

DEPT PASS OE/HEW FOR LEESTMA; LABOR FOR METCALF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, OECD

SUBJECT: EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 12-14

REF: A) OECD 6966; B) OECD 12074

1. SUMMARY. EDUCATION COMMITTEE (EDC) MET MAY 12-14 AND RECOMMENDED THAT ITS MANDATE BE EXTENDED FOR FIVE YEARS. EDC ALSO APPROVED CERI GOVERNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION THAT CERI MANDATE BE EXTENDED FOR SOME FIVE YEARS, AND EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO CONVERT CERI INTO A SOCIAL AND EDUCATION INNOVATION CENTER. EDC AGREED ONLY TO PROPOSITION THAT EDUCATION BE VIEWED IN LARGER SOCIAL CONTEXT. EDC APPROVED KERR REPORT AND POSTPONED EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF SAME TO LATER MEETING. BUREAU ELECTIONS POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER, 1976. NEXT EDC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 3-4. DR. ROBERT LEESTMA, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, HEW, LED US DEL. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 - ED/A(75)1

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ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN POSTPONED UNTIL

DECEMBER MEETING. INCUMBENT BUREAU'S MANDATE WAS EXTENDED UNTIL END OF YEAR. (AS PER DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, MISSION WILL ENDEAVOR TO SECURE NOMINATION OF DR. ROBERT C. LEESTMA FOR EDC CHAIRMAN.) US DEL SECONDED NOMINATION OF AUSTRALIAN AND JAPANESE DELS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN JOINT PROGRAMMING GROUP, THE COORDINATING BODY FOR EDC AND CERI GOVERNING BOARD. (THE EDC IS REPRESENTED IN THE JPG BY THE US, FINLAND, FRANCE, ITALY, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN, WHILE CERI IS REPRESENTED BY BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, GERMANY, THE UK AND YUGOSLAVIA.)

3. ITEM 5 - ORAL STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR GASS

MANPOWER, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS GAVE GENERAL REPORT ON OECD ACTIVITIES.

4. ITEM 6 - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - CERI/CD
(75)3 - ED(75)8

A. GASS REVIEWED FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES FOR EDC:
1) CLOSER LINK WITH MSAC, 2) MERGE EDC AND MSAC INTO ONE SOCIAL AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND 3) MAINTAIN EXISTING PLENARIES BUT DEVELOP CLOSER COOPERATION AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL BY CONVERTING CERI INTO A SOCIAL AND EDUCATION INNOVATION CENTER. THIS SUBJECT PROVOKED SPIRITED DEBATE. WHILE GASS HAS DILIGENTLY ATTEMPTED TO LAUNCH A SOCIAL AND EDUCATION CENTER:" HE RECEIVED SCANT SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT BY EDC. (CERI GOVERNING BOARD AGREED TO A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PROPOSAL, REF A PARA 4, AND MSAC RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE DISCUSSION RE CENTER'S FEASIBILITY, REF B PARA 10.)

THE EDC AGREED ONLY TO:

- 1) TREAT EDUCATION "IN ITS SOCIAL CONTEXT";
- 2) RECOMMEND THAT ITS PRESENT PLENARY STRUCTURE BE MAINTAINED AND THAT ITS MANDATE BE EXTENDED, "SAY, FIVE YEARS";
- 3) SUPPORT THE CERI GB RECOMMENDATION THAT CERI BE EXTENDED FOR SOME FIVE YEARS "ON BASIS OF EXISTING STATUTE";
- 4) REINFORCE COORDINATION WITH CERI AND "OTHER OECD COMMITTEES AS APPROPRIATE".

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B. ONLY SWEDEN AND JAPAN SUPPORTED A SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTER; THE MAJORITY OPPOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- 1) INABILITY OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OR INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGE;
- 2) SATISFACTION WITH CERI AS PRESENTLY STRUCTURED. (CONVERSION WOULD REDUCE ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.);

- 3) FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS;
4. SECRETARIAT OVERSTATEMENT OF INTERACTION BETWEEN
SOCIAL AND EDUCATION POLICY.

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LS DEL EXPRESSED MAJORITY VIEW THAT SINCE EDUCATION IS
IMPORTANT DIMENSION OF SOCIAL POLICY, EDC SHOULD ADDRESS
LARGER SOCIAL POLICY ISSUES AND COORDINATE MORE CLOSELY
WITH CERI AND MSAC. HOWEVER, TWO-PART (EDC AND CERI)
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE AS STRUCTURED.

5. ITEM 7 - 1976 WORK PROGRAM - ED(75)6

NO MAJOR DISSENT. HOWEVER, UK AND NORWAY EXPRESSED
DOUBTS RE UTILITY AND TRUE COMPARABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL
STATISTICS YEARBOOK, AND OPPOSED ITS PROPOSED
PUBLICATION. GERMANY AND SWEDEN NOTED THE STRENGTH OF
THEIR TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ARE REINFORCED BY
NATIONAL LEGISLATION, AND QUESTIONED THE FOCUS ON
TEACHER POLICIES. US DEL JOINED NORWEGIAN SUGGESTION
THAT GREATER ATTENTION BE PAID TO IMPACT OF CHANGING
ECONOMIC SITUATION ON EDUCATION. US DEL STATED OUR

PRIORITY CONCERNS WITH IMPROVING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
BY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR DISADVANTAGED HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS, ADDING SUCH PROGRAMS COULD BE THE SUBJECT FOR COUNTRY REVIEWS. US DEL STRONGLY SUPPORTED PROPOSAL TO REVIEW HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION POLICIES.
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6. ITEM 8 - TEACHER POLICIES - ED(75)3

A. COMMITTEE EXTENDED MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP THAT WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED TO SUPERVISE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON TEACHER POLICIES (NOVEMBER 1974). WG WILL PREPARE DETAILED PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING A WORK PROGRAM ALONG LINES PROPOSED IN SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT, FOCUSSED ON: 1) ANALYSIS AT SPECIFIC STAGES, E.G., DEMAND FOR TEACHERS AT COMPULSORY LEVEL, OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES AND RELEVANT COSTS; 2) PROFILES OF TEACHER ROLES AND TASKS IN RELATION TO OVERALL LEARNING RESOURCES.

B. GERMAN DEL STATED THAT SINCE ISSUE OF TEACHER POLICIES IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED, HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING. NORWEGIAN DEL OBSERVED ROLE OF TEACHER IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES. EDC ASSIGNED LOW PRIORITY TO SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL REGARDING TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. WHILE EDC AGREED THAT CONSULTATION WITH TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE USEFUL, DELEGATES STRESSED DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED AT NATIONAL LEVEL AND RECOMMENDED, IF FEASIBLE, THAT TEACHER REPS BE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO WG.

7. ITEM 9 - SEMINAR ON EDUCATION, INEQUALITY AND LIFE CHANCES - ED(75)5

COMMITTEE PRAISED CLARITY OF DRAFT CONCLUSIONS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT. DELEGATES AGREED THAT WHILE SEMINAR WAS USEFUL IN BRINGING ACADEMICS AND POLICY MAKERS TOGETHER, THE EXPERTS DOMINATED MEETING AND, IN CONSEQUENCE, SEMINAR'S RESULTS WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON POLICY. DELEGATES ALSO PRAISED EXCELLENCE OF PAPERS PREPARED FOR SEMINAR, BUT NOTED MARKED EDUCATIONAL BIAS SINCE PAPERS UNDERSTATED CONTRIBUTION OF OTHER SOCIAL POLICIES (INCOME TRANSFER, TAXATION, OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURES, MANPOWER, POLITICAL POWER RELATIONS.) DELEGATES CHALLENGED SEMINAR'S VIEW OF THE EQUALIZING EFFECTS OF INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHOUT REGARD
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FOR JOB SATISFACTION OR INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT TO ENABLE ONE TO MAKE A SOCIALLY USEFUL CONTRIBUTION. SECRETARIAT (MADDISON) AGREED, AND PROMISED TO PREPARE AN AMENDED TEXT FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EDUCATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS/POLICIES TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES AND ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES.

8. ITEM 10 - EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS -
SME/CA/75.21

SANDGREN (SWEDEN), WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN, REPORTED THAT WG FOUND DATA COLLECTION AT REGULAR INTERVALS VERY EXPENSIVE AND TOO GREAT A BURDEN ON STAFF WORKING BOTH IN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND OECD. UK REP PROPOSED THAT THE PERIODICITY BE RECONSIDERED, AND THAT SECRETARIAT CONCENTRATE ON METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATED TO DATA COLLECTION OF EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES. SECRETARIAT WAS IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT WITH UK PROPOSALS WHICH WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AT THE LAST WG MEETING.

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9. ITEM 11 - PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION - ED(74)27

MARRIS TOLD EDC THAT ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE HAD ASKED WP2 TO REVIEW LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND OTHER SECTORS. THE WP'S PAPER, "PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION: A FORWARD LOOK" (CPE/WP2(74)2) AS SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED (CPE/WP2(75)2), PROJECTS EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES THROUGH 1985 UNDER THREE SETS OF ASSUMPTIONS. THE PAPER INDICATES THAT EDUCATION'S SHARE OF GDP, IN REAL TERMS, IS UNLIKELY TO EXCEED THE LEVEL OF THE EARLY 1970'S. BELGIUM AND GERMANY AGREED THAT EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES MAY SOON PEAK; THUS THE PROBLEM CONCERNS THE EFFICIENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA AND OTHER RESOURCES. OTHER DELS REMARKED THAT COUNTRY OBJECTIVES SHOULD DETERMINE RESOURCE ALLOCATION, AND THAT PRIORITY BE ASSIGNED TO QUALITATIVE EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR CERTAIN GROUPS, E.G., PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, DISADVANTAGED, ETC.

10. ITEM 12 - REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES, AUSTRIA

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POSTPONED.

11. ITEM 13 - EDUCATION AND WORKING LIFE - C(75)34

A. JACQUES DELORS, FORMER ADVISOR FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AND MEMBER OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. WORK, FROM QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE POINT OF VIEW, MUST BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY OVER NEXT 20 YEARS TO COMBAT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES;
2. ACTIVE MANPOWER POLICIES ARE ONE APPROACH. HOWEVER, SUCH POLICIES DO NOT REACH MANY GROUPS (FOREIGN, MINORITY, YOUTH AND WOMEN) BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE INFORMATION, GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SYSTEMS;
3. EDUCATION RAISES BOTH THE LEVELS OF ASPIRATION AND FRUSTRATION, EXPANDING THE GAP BETWEEN HOPE AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT;
4. THE INTERESTS OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND LABOR MARKET DEMAND ARE DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE WITHIN A FREE MARKET ECONOMY; NEW THINKING AND NEW SYSTEMS ARE REQUIRED;
5. WORK SHOULD BE STRUCTURED AND PERCEIVED AS A SOURCE

OF SATISFACTION RATHER THAN JUST A LIVELIHOOD;
6. COOPERATION BETWEEN LABOR, MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT
AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY IS REQUIRED TO FUSE THE
WORLDS OF EDUCATION AND WORK.

B. CHAIRMAN NIVEAU SUGGESTED TEACHERS BE GIVEN OPPOR-
TUNITIES TO WORK IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR TO ACHIEVE
INTERACTION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY. JAPANESE DEL
OBSERVED REPORTS' PROPOSALS ARE IRRELEVANT IN JAPANESE
CONTEXT WHERE WORKERS HAVE LIFETIME EMPLOYMENT. CANA-
DIAN DEL SAID REPORT WAS "MOST STIMULATING AND PROVOCA-
TIVE DOCUMENT PRODUCED BY THE OECD". HOWEVER, REPORT
OVERSTRESSED RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT
DISCUSSION OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. LS DEL REPORTED
THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS ASSIGNED HIGH PRIORITY TO
QUESTION OF EDUCATION AND WORK, AND A FIRST REPORT ON
THE ISSUE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM. MOST DELS AGREED
THE REPORT WAS INTERESTING BUT THAT MANY OF ITS RECCM-
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MENDATIONS WERE EITHER UNREALISTIC OR TOO COSTLY.

12. ITEMS 14-15 - OPTIONS BEYOND COMPULSORY SCHOOLING
AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

DISCUSSION POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING AT WHICH TIME
THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED TOGETHER WITH ITEM 13, EDUCA-
TION AND WORKING LIFE.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT EDC COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE JULY 3-4.
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